

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: REPORT ON REFUGEES IN LESOTHO

1. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE REFUGEE SECTION OF THE LESOTHO CHRISTIAN COUNCIL (WHICH REGISTERS ALL REFUGEES IN LESOTHO) THERE WERE, AS OF JULY 25, 1978, 230 HEADS OF HOUSE-HOLD REGISTERED AS REFUGEES IN LESOTHO. OF THESE, 110 WERE RECEIVING SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES. 35 REGISTERED REFUGEES ARE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND 20 ARE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO.

2. MOST OF THE REFUGEES ARE FROM SOUTH AFRICA. THERE ARE 7 REGISTERED ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES AND APPROXIMATELY 35 UNREGISTERED UGANDAN REFUGEES. NEARLY ALL THE UGANDAN FAMILIES HAVE FOUND A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INCOME THROUGH PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT. IN AT LEAST ONE CASE THE UGANDA HICOM HERE PROTESTED A GOL JOB OFFER TO A REFUGEE AND THE OFFER WAS WITHDRAWN.

3. PRESENT GOL PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTING THESE REFUGEES ARE HOUSING AND EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR PRESENTLY UNEMPLOYABLE YOUTHS.

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4. GOL STATISTICS ON "REFUGEES" REFLECT A GREATER NUMBER THAN THOSE REGISTERED. MANY SOUTH AFRICANS CHOOSE NOT TO REGISTER WHILE THEY POSSESS A VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT. OTHERS - PROBABLY SEVERAL HUNDRED - ARE STUDENTS WHOSE FAMILIES PREFER THEM TO LIVE WITH RELATIVES AND STUDY IN LESOTHO, RATHER THAN THE RSA. GOL FIGURES, GIVEN IN VARIOUS SPEECHES BY FONMIN, INCLUDE ALL OF THESE PEOPLE AND THE ESTIMATED NUMBER IS AROUND 900 TO 1000.

STOKES

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